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Hours by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

The largest global forum on housing and sustainable urban development—the United Nations Habitat III Conference in 2016—adopted a New Urban Agenda that is going to guide sustainable urban and housing development for decades. Countries around the world focus their efforts on defining policies and strategies that foster sustainable housing solutions to direct implementation. Sustainable housing is critical for equitable and economically vibrant cities. It defines the vision of the city, the configuration of its neighborhoods and its ecological footprint. A reinvigorated commitment to green and affordable housing in cities will maximize economic efficiency, promote sustainable density, encourage social diversity and mixed land uses, and thus make the city more functional, inclusive while maintaining environmental balances. This is a research seminar that provides a forum for discussion and evaluation of independent student research on a wide variety of topics related to sustainable housing at the local, national and global level.

Objectives

The research seminar is demand-driven and responds to the specific needs of students in terms of content and pedagogy. It has the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the development of a high quality research paper and/or thesis chapter through well directed independent research;
2. To provide an effective feedback on student research thematically related to sustainable housing through a forum for discussion and peer evaluation;
3. To contribute to the development of essential research skills.

Content and Teaching Approach

The class format includes directed reading, preparation of annotated bibliography, development of a research paper and/or thesis chapter related to the topic of choice by each student, as well as presentation of a literature review pertaining to the theoretical advances in their selected field of inquiry. The research seminar acknowledges the value of peer-reviewed research contributions in shaping and advancing the knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of sustainable urban housing. Students, depending on their research topic, select research publications from international journals, books, conference proceedings, master and PhD theses communicating recent advances in their specific field of inquiry. A review of the literature will be presented to the class and discussed to facilitate proactive learning. The class will select research areas most relevant to the students, which will be explored through guest lectures, student presentations, panel discussions and/or critical literature review.

Lectures, seminars and assignments will explore a wide range of topics organised in the following thematic clusters:

- Theoretical Perspectives on Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods
- Planning Sustainable Housing: International Perspectives
- Sustainable Housing: Efficiency, Equity, Affordability
- Green and Affordable Housing: Catalyst of Neighbourhood Change.

The course requires participants to contribute to critical discussion of student research papers/chapters of their thesis. Students also conduct individual literature review and prepare an annotated bibliography, under

direction from the instructor. During regular class sessions students will present the conceptual framework of their research, chapters of their thesis, a conference paper related to their thesis research or the results of a literature review pertaining to recent theories in their selected field of inquiry. The presentation will be followed by a group discussion in which all students are expected to engage. The aim is to prompt discussion and feedback, with the instructor and the presenting student serving as the moderators.

Course Evaluation

Annotated bibliography	10%
Literature review	25%
Research paper	30%
Research seminar presentation	20%
Class participation	15%
Total	100%

Effective writing and presentation are major factors in the evaluation of student work.

The course evaluation will be based on the assignments completed during the term, which includes written assignments, presentation of work, and participation in panel class discussions and peer-review process. There will be no final examination. Students must achieve a passing grade in all assignments to complete the course successfully. Students are expected to attend all classes. Grades will be deducted for work submitted later than the deadline specified in the assignment. Students will receive a common grade for work done in pairs or groups, unless it is clear to the instructor that an unequal share of the work occurred. Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, involvement in the peer-review process, panel discussions and critical commentary on assigned readings.

The EVDS standard grading scale will be used in all evaluations for this course.

Background papers for Habitat III conference.

<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii-conference/>

Grading Scale

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Notes:

- A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Readings

Recommended readings:

Tsenkova, S. and French, M. (2011) *Affordable Land and Housing in Europe and North America*. Nairobi: United Nations, UN-HABITAT.

UN-HABITAT (2015b) *HABITAT III Issue Papers 8: Urban and Spatial Planning and Design*. New York: UN-HABITAT, 31 May 2015. <http://unhabitat.org/issue-papers-and-policy-units/>, accessed April 24, 2016

UN-HABITAT (2016a) *World Cities Report 2016. Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*. New York: UN-HABITAT. <http://wcr.unhabitat.org/>, accessed on May 21, 2016

UN-HABITAT (2016c) *The New Urban Agenda, Zero Draft*. http://www.citiscopes.org/sites/default/files/h3/Draft_New_Urban_Agenda_18_July.pdf, accessed August 31, 2016

Notes:

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)

6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).